

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Parks for the Future

### Tell Us What You Want!

What do you want your parks to be in the future? If you want a change, something new, added recreation that is not there now, then this is the time to speak up.

California State Parks, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and the University of Utah will be conducting a survey on what people want out of their park and recreation areas in the coming years. Over the next few months, thousands of Californians will have a chance to weigh in on their outdoor recreation preferences and habits by participating in a short 15-minute telephone survey. By taking the time to answer a few questions, participants can help ensure that the state's public outdoor recreation facilities and activities meet Californians' changing needs.

The Survey on Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation, conducted by California State Parks about every five years, is a key tool for park and recreation providers and planners statewide. Survey results identify the most popular facilities and activities, gaps in recreation opportunities, levels of physical activity in parks and much more. These results help guide local outdoor recreation providers (mostly counties and cities) when they apply for federal funding grants, which providers use to acquire and develop neighborhood park and recreation areas and facilities. The survey is partially funded through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program.

Statewide, California State Parks uses survey results to help plan facilities, activities and programs at the state's more than 200 state parks. Results are also of interest to those in the private recreation industry, such as ski resorts, as well as federal agencies with outdoor recreation land in the state, such as the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. Also sure to take note of the survey results that measure Californians' physical activity in parks are state agencies involved in public health policy and planning. Survey results can help the agencies identify and address current trends affecting public health, such as the increasingly sedentary lifestyle of many California residents.

While California State Parks and most other park agencies are going through serious budget reductions, recreation providers must still plan for future needs. By surveying visitors now, recreation providers look forward to when the State's economy improves and they are better prepared to keep pace with changing demands on park and recreation areas statewide.

Survey results are scheduled to be posted on the California State Parks website, [www.parks.ca.gov/CORP](http://www.parks.ca.gov/CORP) by spring 2013. # # # #

**For energy efficient recreation –**

**California State Parks on the Internet: [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)>**

